



**Montana Department
of
Fish, Wildlife & Parks**

4600 Giant Springs Road
Great Falls, MT 59405

March 12, 2003

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Find attached the Record of Decision for the Reed & Bowles Fishing Access Site Improvements. Fifteen comments were received commenting on the proposal. A modified Environmental Assessment will be accepted as the final EA.

Thank you for your continued interest in fishing access on Big Spring Creek near Lewistown.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mike Aderhold". The signature is fluid and stylized, with the first and last names being more prominent.

Mike Aderhold
Region Supervisor

*For Gus 17
MISC*



Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Decision Notice For Proposed
Reed & Bowles Fishing Access Site Improvements
Region Four
4600 Giant Springs Road
Great Falls, MT 59405

March 11, 2003

Description of Proposed Action:

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks proposes to make initial improvements to the Reed & Bowles Fishing Access Site (property purchased from Emmet Butcher in February 2001) located on Big Spring Creek north of Lewistown on Joyland Road (county road #237) two miles from U.S. Highway 191 North.

This proposal includes constructing an entry approach road, cul-de-sac with a six-stall parking area; install vehicle barriers, latrine, perimeter fencing, screening and signs; install foot bridge across an irrigation ditch and clear about 200' of trail.

Finding of No Significant Impact:

I have reviewed the EA and applicable laws, regulations, and policies and have determined that this action will not have a significant effect on the human environment. Therefore, an environmental impact statement will not be prepared.

Based on the analysis in the EA, review of public comment, a February 26, 2003 on site check and a visit with adjacent neighbor Tom Butcher, I wish to modify the preferred alternative. The initial development will go forward without the proposed latrine and there will be no paving of the site. In a time of austerity this will cut development cost, minimize maintenance cost and preserve the primitive character of this site. At a later date, the latrine may be installed if there are health concerns or public demand. Basic and reasonable improvements like boundary fencing, signing, a simple bridge over the irrigation ditch, safe parking, and vehicle barriers are acceptable. This alternative will enhance Reed & Bowles Fishing Access Site by improving the public access opportunities in a more sensitive manner. With this change the EA will be accepted as the final EA.

This action is subject to appeal, which must be submitted to the FWP Director in writing, and postmarked within 30 days of the date on this decision notice. The appeal must specifically describe the basis for the appeal, explain how appellant has previously commented to the Department or participated in the decision-making process, and lay out how FWP might address the concerns in the appeal.

The Environmental assessment may be viewed, or obtained from The Department of Fish Wildlife and Parks, Region 4, Great Falls, MT. If you have questions regarding this decision notice, or the final EA please direct requests and questions to: Mike Aderhold, 4600 Giant Springs Road, Great Falls, MT 59405, (406) 454-5840.

Signed


Mike Aderhold - Region Four Supervisor

Date

3/11/03